

REMARKS**I. PENDING CLAIMS**

Claims 1 and 3-42 are currently pending.

This amendment is believed to place the application in condition for allowance, and entry therefore is respectfully requested. In the alternative, entry of this amendment is requested as placing the application in better condition for appeal by, at least, reducing the number of issues outstanding.

Entry of Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

The Applicant requests entry of this Rule 116 Response because the amendment does not significantly alter the scope of the claims and places the application at least into a better form for purposes of appeal. No new features or new issues are being raised.

The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures (M.P.E.P.) sets forth in Section 714.12 that “any amendment that would place the case either in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal may be entered.” Moreover, Section 714.13 sets forth that “the Proposed Amendment should be given sufficient consideration to determine whether the claims are in condition for allowance and/or whether the issues on appeal are simplified.” The M.P.E.P. further articulates that the reason for any non-entry should be explained expressly in the Advisory Action.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 3, 21 AND 25-30 UNDER 35 USC 112

The claims are amended herein to overcome the rejection.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 3, 21, and 25-30 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 21 and 25-30 are now allowable.

III. PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

Claim 1 is amended to recite the telephone number selecting unit a sound reply telephone number for use in inputting a sound reply as the sound information concerning sound reply related to the e-mail message to be transmitted from said first information terminal to said second information terminal, and associating a telephone number of said second information terminal with the sound reply telephone number, the sound reply telephone number being different from the telephone number of said second information terminal itself.

Somewhat similar amendments are made to claims 8, 10, 13, 14, and 38-42. Support for the amendments is found, for example, on page 37, lines 17-19 of the specification.

None of the cited references disclose or suggest these features.

The above comments are specifically directed to claim 1. However, it is respectfully submitted that the comments would be helpful in understanding various differences of various other claims over the cited references.

Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the various dependent claims include additional patentable features for distinguishing over the references. However, the various dependent claims will not be discussed here, as these claims should clearly be allowable for at least the reason that they dependent from an independent claim which should now be allowable.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections are overcome.

IV. CONCLUSION

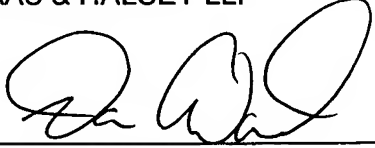
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 2-17-09

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